

USA Patent Application  
Markus Gilch, et al

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change CLAIMS to WE CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 16-30 therefor:

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16. (new) A method for controlling an air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

measuring (10) with an air mass flow rate sensor (28) the actual value of air (26) flowing into the air-conditioning system (22); and

means for increasing and/or decreasing the airflow are actuated (14-20), in order to adjust the actual value to a setpoint value for the entering airflow rate.

17. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the air mass flow (26) into the air-conditioning system (22) is composed of a recirculated airflow (30) and an external airflow (32).

18. (new) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein there is an excessively low air mass flow into the air-conditioning system (22), and the recirculated airflow (30) and/or external airflow (32) are increased.

19. (new) The method as claimed in claim 18, further wherein a fan, which is connectable into circuit for an increased air mass flow, is provided in an inlet duct for the external airflow (32).

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein an adjustable flap (34), which is adjustable in accordance with the required airflow rate, is provided in an inlet duct for the external airflow (32).

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the air mass flow to the air-conditioning system (22) is controlled independently of speed.

22. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein proportions of recirculated airflow (30) and external airflow (32) are set by a recirculation flap (34).

23. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein characteristic variables of the inflowing air mass flow rate are measured in the air mass flow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22).

24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the steps of measuring temperature and/or relative humidity in the air mass flow to the air-conditioning system.

25. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein one or more sensors (28), which each respond to a gas or a mixture of gases, are provided in the airflow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22).

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the sensors (28) respond to exhaust gas in the flow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22), and the proportion of external air (32) is reduced by actuating the flap (34).

27. (new) A device for an air-conditioning system, comprising

a suction element, via which at least one airflow is fed to the air-conditioning system, and

an air mass flow rate sensor in the suction element measures one or more airflows which enter the air-conditioning system via the suction element.

28. (new) The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the suction element has an inflow line for recirculated air and an inflow line for external air.

29. (new) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the suction element has a diverter flap which sets the proportions of external air and recirculated air in the suction element to the air-conditioning system.

30. (new) The device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the air mass flow rate sensor is located downstream of the diverter flap and upstream of the air-conditioning system.